



FILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

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February 20, 2004

Date of Deposit

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

Art Unit: 1654

JOSEPH M. AULT

Examiner: Meller, Michael V.

APPLICATION NO: 10/006,311

FILED: DECEMBER 4, 2001

FOR: PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS FOR THE ORAL DELIVERY
OF PHARMACOLOGICALLY ACTIVE AGENTS

RECEIVED

MAR 01 2004

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

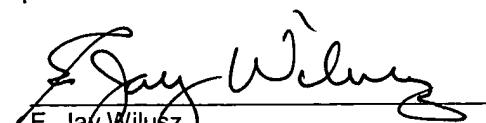
PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Sir:

The Office Action of August 20, 2002 has a shortened statutory time set to expire on November 20, 2003. A three-month extension is hereby requested pursuant to 37 CFR §1.136(a).

Please charge Deposit Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis in the amount of \$950 for payment of the extension fee. An additional copy of this paper is here enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 CFR §1.17 which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis.

Respectfully submitted,



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Corporate Intellectual Property
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Date: February 20, 2004